GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:54
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
SCARCITY OF WATER
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is likely to face great water shortage by 2025;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the quantum of availability of fresh water in India has dropped as compared to the position in the last few years;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage of water and to ensure proper storage in the future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 54 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.11.07 REGARDING SCARCITY OF WATER.

(a) & (b) Serious water shortage is not anticipated by 2025 for the country as a whole.

(c) No, Sir. The average annual quantum of availability of fresh water in India is assumed to be constant and no trend for its reduction has been noticed. However, the per capita water availability is declining because of population growth.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The demand for water for various purposes is increasing due to population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation. Therefore the need for the utmost efficiency in water utilisation and a public awareness of the importance of its conservation has been highlighted in the National Water Policy. The National Water Policy states that (a) the water resources should be conserved, (b) Water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilisable resources to the maximum possible extent, (c) efficiency of utilisation in all diverse uses of water should be optimised and (d) there is urgent need of paradigm shift in the management of water resources sector. Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practies etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the state Government through various schemes / programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Mangement (CADWM) Programme, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development (NPP) which envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking cannal systems.